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EDUCATIONAL VIDEO



INFORMATIVE HANDOUTS

The Association wishes to thank the following partners whose generous support contributes to the success and operations of the Child Witness Court Preparation Program:

- Alberta Justice and Solicitor General, Victim Programs
- Calgary Crown Prosecutor's Office and Public Assistance Office
- Calgary Police Service
- Calgary and Area Child and Family Services Authority
- Royal Canadian Mounted Police, K Division Alberta
- Sheldon Kennedy Child Advocacy Centre



CANADIAN CHILD ABUSE ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 42066, Acadia Postal Outlet
Calgary, AB T2J 7A6

- ☎ (403) 289-8385
- ✉ aliceg@cca.org
- 📘 [takingaction](https://www.facebook.com/takingaction)
- 🌐 cca.org
- 🌐 childcourtprep.com



Calgary and Area
Child Witness

Court Preparation Program
and Court Accompaniment

PROGRAM STAFF

- **Leiane Smith, BSW, RSW**
– Clinical Supervisor & Volunteer Coordinator
- **Alice Gifford**
– Administrator

QUALIFIED FACILITATORS

Our facilitators are carefully chosen for their ability to work with children who have experienced trauma. Many are duly delegated child welfare workers in the Province of Alberta. This ensures that workers are well trained in the importance of preserving a clean, uncontaminated investigation.

WHO MAY REFER

Referrals are received from the Sheldon Kennedy Child Advocacy Centre, police, Crown prosecutors, child welfare workers, therapists, teachers, parents or guardians. However, referrals from other sources may also be considered.

For further information, or to refer a child to the Child Witness Court Preparation Program, please contact via;

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OUR PROGRAM

The Child Witness Court Preparation Program is designed to provide direct assistance to the increasing number of children being called upon to testify in court proceedings. The needs of child witnesses are primarily addressed in group settings.

Each group consists of two sessions requiring the commitment of both the child and an adult who will support the child in court. A parent/caregiver session is offered at the same time as one of the child sessions.

Court accompaniment is also available for all children and families wanting support on the day(s) of the court proceedings.

The Child Witness Court Preparation Program is structured to ensure the non-contamination of evidence. There is no disclosure or discussion of the child's individual circumstances.

- Relaxation techniques
- Court roles and protocols
- Court process and outcomes
- Memory strategies
- Role plays
- Courtroom tour
- Exploration of fears and anxieties

THE ORGANIZATION

The Canadian Child Abuse Association (CCAA) (formerly the Canadian Society for the Investigation of Child Abuse) was established in October 1985 in response to a growing need for a coordinated, professional approach to child abuse investigations.

The Board of Directors of the non-profit society has included police officers, social workers, Crown prosecutors, child welfare workers, Alberta Justice counsel, and clinical specialists.

PARTICIPANTS

The Child Witness Court Preparation Program is intended to serve children and youth who are required to testify in criminal court regarding sexual and physical assault charges and:

- are between the ages of 4-17 years

Participation is on a voluntary basis. Child participants must have the written consent of a parent or guardian.